



TO: CAG Members

FROM: Ron Anderson

SUBJECT: Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

DATE: April 5, 2002

The CAG has recently been dancing around the issue of supporting an application for a TAG grant. The incentives being promoted are that other superfund site citizens advised using the grant, and that through the grant, education and knowledge will flow into the community. This insures that we (CAG?) will then make good and informed decisions regarding cleanup issues, long term health care needs, and individual health care issues.

It is important to recognize the significant difference between our current asbestos superfund site and superfund sites that arose in other areas of Montana, and the United States. In fact, our previously declared superfund site in Libby, the penta-creosote contamination, went relatively unnoticed by the community.

EPA and other federal agencies have, and continue to provide unprecedented assistance to our community in the forms of information access and comment opportunities. The community and its diverse action groups have had access to more information than most have felt interested in pursuing. They are receiving what they need, at the level they desire, through the established outlets; direct contact, info center, media, service organizations, etc. The state is also becoming more involved.

Just because the grant is available doesn't justify an application; unless there is a genuine need. And I'm sure, at most, a few CAG members might argue there is. Our previous experience with the TOSC program provided nothing of a positive significance to the community.

In light of the national funding crisis superfund is facing, I feel that a \$60,000 grant to Libby is money more effectively used for different purposes. It would be irresponsible, and very self-serving, to advance the notion that our community has a need and will suffer irreparable without the benefit of this grant.